provided to AIR/DDK employees in Srinagar are (i) armed escorts for movements between installations, as well as between their accommodation in Radio Colony and TRC Guest House and the Kendras; (ii) making available to them secure accommodation at TRC Guest House.

Regular monitoring of the security arrangements is done at the Kendras, as also at the levels of the Government of J & K and Government of India.

Closure of Newspapers and Periodicals

6539. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India has set up a committee to study the phenomenon of closure of newspapers and periodicals during the last few years;

(b) the details of the newspapers and periodicals closed down during the last three years; and

(c) what are the factors responsible for their closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available with Registrar of Newspapers for India, the details of the newspapers/periodicals closed during 1990, 1991 and 1992 are enclosed (*see* below).

(c) Press Council of India's Committee has in its preliminary meetings identified some basic factors *prima-facie* responsible for possible closure of newspapers and periodicals, which are annexed.

Statement

Number of Newspapers/Periodicals ceased (Periodicity-wise)

Year	Week-lies	Fort-nightlies	Month-lies	Quarter-lies	Total
1990	3	3	3	3	12
1991	2	3	7	1	13
1992	3	—	1	—	4

Part (c)

(a) Competition from well established papers/new entrants.

(b) Competition from electronic media leading to loss of advertisement revenue.

(c) Lack of advertisement support.

(d) Inadequate allocation of newsprint.

(e) Unfavourable government economic policies

(f) Intimidation by the police.

(g) Political interference affecting the freedom of the press.

(h) Labour problems accentuated by Trade Unions.

(i) Too many legal cases on the charges of defamation.

(j) Difficulty in getting competent journalists.

(k) Family disputes.

Rural Electrification in Darjeeling

6540. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded great importance to rural electrification;

(b) if so, how many Village/Bustis/Talukas were brought under this scheme in Darjeeling during the last three years;

(c) what is the percentage of rural areas in Darjeeling Hill, still not brought under this scheme;

(d) what measures have been taken for